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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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DATE MAILED:

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No
09/457,765

Applicant(s)

Moody et al.

Examiner
Michael Meller

Group Art Unit
1651



Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____

This action is **FINAL**.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire three month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☒ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
- received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____
- ☒ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *Certified copies not received _____
- Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- Notice of References Cited: PTO-892
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s): PTO-1449 Paper No(s) 4
- Interview Summary: PTO-413
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review: PTO-948
- Notice of Informal Patent Application: PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout and content for patent applications. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

The following order or arrangement is preferred in framing the specification and, except for the reference to "Microfiche Appendix" and the drawings, each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as section headings. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) Title of the Invention.
- (b) Cross-References to Related Applications.
- (c) Statement Regarding Federally Sponsored Research or Development.
- (d) Reference to a "Microfiche Appendix" (see 37 CFR 1.96).
- (e) Background of the Invention.
 - 1. Field of the Invention.
 - 2. Description of the Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (f) Brief Summary of the Invention.
- (g) Brief Description of the Several Views of the Drawing(s).
- (h) Detailed Description of the Invention.
- (i) Claim or Claims (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (j) Abstract of the Disclosure (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) Drawings.
- (l) Sequence Listing (see 37 CFR 1.821-1.825).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claims do not set forth clear, distinct and positive steps in the claimed chemical reaction. The reaction is unclear since the "reaction mixture" reads on the beginning reaction, not necessarily the end reaction. It is not clear what the concentrations of 6-APA and ampicillin are in the "reaction mixture". How can the 6-APA by itself be a greater amount than the 6-APA and the ampicillin. Is this the end or beginning of the reaction ?

A period is needed at the end of claim 1.

Claims 4-10 are improper multiply dependent claims. It is not clear which claim these claims ultimately depend from.

In claims 9 and 10, it is not clear what is meant by the phrase, "is lowered as soon as near to maximum conversion is achieved". What does this mean ? What is "maximum conversion" ? This is a relative term.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over WO 92/01061 (see claims 16 and 21), WO 95/03420 (see page 3, lines 6-7 and claim 4) or WO 96/02663 (see Table 2).

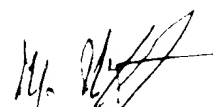
The references each teach a process for the preparation of ampicillin in which 6-APA is subjected to an enzymatic acylation with the aid of a phenylglycine derivative.

The claims are anticipated by the references or if needed, in the alternative, obvious over the cited references. Each of the references teaches the claimed process and claimed ranges and or specifically claimed amounts of reactants to use in the process. In the event that the specifically claimed amount is either in the range, near or not mentioned in the reference it is

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deemed to be well within the purview of the skilled artisan through routine optimization to use amounts of reactants which would yield the best results.

Any inquiries concerning this communication should be directed to Examiner Mike Meller at telephone number (703) 308-4230. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Michael Wityshyn, can be reached at (703) 308-4743. The Fax phone number for the art unit is (703) 308- 0294. Any inquiries of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. Meller", written over a faint circular stamp.

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